

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

MAEVE VALLELY BARTLETT
Secretary

GREGORY C. WATSON
Commissioner

NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations, 333 CMR 11:00, in order to apply herbicides to control vegetation along electric utility rights-of-way, a 5-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) must be approved by the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR). Therefore, notice of receipt of a YOP and procedures for public review is hereby given as required by Section 11.06(3).

A Yearly Operational Plan for Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) has been submitted to the Department.

Western Massachusetts Electric Company has submitted the following summary of their Yearly Operational Plan (YOP):

The YOP describes vegetation maintenance work to be done on transmission line rights-of-way and distribution line rights-of-way. Maps identify the location of rights-of-way scheduled for treatment in 2015. Sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field are located on these maps including public surface water supplies, and public ground water supply wells and their primary recharge area. Private drinking water supply wells reported by the municipality and made available to the applicant are specified in the YOP.

Herbicide methods including application rates, carriers and adjuvants are presented according to the herbicide application technique and appropriate location. Alternative woody vegetation control procedures are designated as cutting without herbicide treatment and options precluding herbicide use. The companies which will perform the herbicide treatment are listed and identified in the notification given at least 30 days prior to herbicide treatment. Additionally, herbicide applications to rights-of-way in 2015 are subject to a "newspaper-notification" requirement. Target vegetation capable of interfering with the conductors or access is described in terms of desirable and undesirable species. The individual(s) representing the applicant supervising the YOP are provided. Flagging methods to designate sensitive areas on the right-of-way are described with corresponding sketches for public groundwater supply wells, public surface water supplies and wetlands. Herbicide fact sheets as approved by the Department, as well as procedures and locations for handling, mixing, and loading herbicide concentrates are included. Local emergency planning committees are listed for emergency notification of municipal officials.

Municipalities and sites identified in the Northeast Utilities YOP as locations where treatment of rights-of-way with herbicides will be carried out during the calendar year 2015 are:

SCHEDULED WORK by TOWN

2015 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

Scheduled work by town:

Note: T - #'s designate transmission lines scheduled for work.

D - #'s designate bulk-supply distribution lines scheduled for work.

"Brush" followed by a street name identifying location of brush.
 "Touch-up" designates a touch-up application only
 "Vines" treatments specific to vines climbing on poles or equipment

Distribution

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations	Vines
Agawam		D58 W.Springfield - Agawam	Roadsides
Amherst	D71 Podick-Montague Rd D4 Midway-S.Amherst D10 Amherst-Mill St		Roadsides
Ashfield			Roadsides
Becket			Roadsides
Bernardston			Roadsides
Blandford		D34 Blandford-E. Otis	Roadsides
Buckland			Roadsides
Chicopee	D49 Chicopee-Facemate	D46 Dwight Sta. Loop	
Colrain			Roadsides
Conway			Roadsides
Chesterfield	D7 Huntington-Chesterfield D25 Plainfield-Cummingtn- Chstrfld		Roadsides
Cumington	D25 Plainfield-Cummingtn- Chstrfld		Roadsides
Dalton		D35 Doreen-Dalton S/S	Roadsides
Deerfield	D15 Warner Bros. Tap D14 CumberInd- S.Deerfield		Roadsides
Easthampton	D5 Midway-Hadley D4 Midway-S.Amherst D70 Gunn S/S-Plain Rd.	D3 Midway - Easthampton	Roadsides
Gill			Roadsides
Granby	D4 Midway-S.Amherst		
Granville			Roadsides
Greenfield	D23 Montague-Mtn Rd D14 CumberInd- S.Deerfield	D19 Montague - Franklin	Roadsides
Hinsdale	D43 Berk.-FrankSchnops rd		Roadsides
Hadley	D5 Midway-Hadley D4 Midway-S.Amherst		Roadsides
Hatfield			Roadsides
Huntington	D9 Huntington-Rt.20 D7 Huntington-Chesterfield		Roadsides
Lanesborough	D28 Partridge-Rte 7		Roadsides
Lee			Roadsides
Lenox			Roadsides
Leverett			Roadsides
Longmeadow			Roadsides
Ludlow			Roadsides
Leyden			Roadsides
Middlefield			Roadsides

Montague	D23 Montague-Mtn Rd D20 Montague-Millers Falls	D19 Montague - Franklin D20 Montague-Millers Falls	Roadsides
Montgomery			Roadsides
New Ashford			Roadsides
Northfield	DBB 21B8 Rte10 to CT river		Roadsides
Otis		D34 Blandford-E. Otis	Roadsides
Pittsfield	D30 Doreen-Dalton Ave D65 Partridge-Dalton Ave D28 Partridge-Rte 7		Roadsides
Pelham			Roadsides
Peru			Roadsides
Plainfield	D25 Plainfield-Cummingtn- Chstrfld		Roadsides
Richmond			Roadsides
Russell			Roadsides
Savoy			Roadsides
Sandisfield			Roadsides
Shelburne			Roadsides
South Hadley	D4 Midway-S.Amherst		
Southampton			Roadsides
Southwick			Roadsides
Springfield			Roadsides
Sunderland			Roadsides
Tolland			Roadsides
Tyringham			Roadsides
Washington			Roadsides
West Springfield	D54 Piper-Cayenne	D58 W.Springfield - Agawam	Roadsides
Westfield	D6 Strathmore-West Rd.		
Westhampton			Roadsides
Whately			Roadsides
Windsor			Roadsides

Transmission

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations
Agawam		WT-22B Agawam – W. Springfield – CT River WT-24B Agawam – CT State Line
Amherst	WT-11 Ludlow/Granby Town Line – Shutesbury/Leverett Town Line WT-12 Cumberland – Montague – Chicopee JCT	
Ashfield	WT-01 Berkshire – Ashfield	WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield
Belchertown	WT-11 Ludlow/Granby Town Line – Shutesbury/Leverett Town Line	
Cheshire		WT-02 Doreen – Berkshire – NY State Line
Chicopee		WT-21B Fairmont – CT River WT-23B Ludlow – East Springfield
Conway		WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield
Dalton		WT-02 Doreen – Berkshire – NY State Line
Deerfield	WT-12 Cumberland – Montague –	WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield

	Chicopee JCT	
Erving	WT-13 Leverett/Shutesbury Town Line – N.H. State Line	WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield
Granby	WT-11 Ludlow/Granby Town Line – Shutesbury/Leverett Town Line WT-12 Cumberland – Montague – Chicopee JCT	
Greenfield	WT-12 Cumberland – Montague – Chicopee JCT	
Hancock		WT-02 Doreen – Berkshire – NY State Line
Hinsdale	WT-01 Berkshire – Ashfield	WT-02 Doreen – Berkshire – NY State Line
Lanesboro		WT-02 Doreen – Berkshire – NY State Line
Leverett	WT-13 Leverett/Shutesbury Town Line – N.H. State Line WT-12 Cumberland – Montague – Chicopee JCT	
Ludlow		WT-23B Ludlow – East Springfield
Montague	WT-13 Leverett/Shutesbury Town Line – N.H. State Line WT-12 Cumberland – Montague – Chicopee JCT	WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield
Northfield	WT-13 Leverett/Shutesbury Town Line – N.H. State Line	WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield
Peru	WT-01 Berkshire – Ashfield	
Pelham	WT-11 Ludlow/Granby Town Line – Shutesbury/Leverett Town Line	
Pittsfield		WT-02 Doreen – Berkshire – NY State Line
Plainfield	WT-01 Berkshire – Ashfield	WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield
Russell		
Shelburne		WT-03 Northfield - Ashfield
Shutesbury	WT-11 Ludlow/Granby Town Line – Shutesbury/Leverett Town Line	
South Hadley	WT-12 Cumberland – Montague – Chicopee JCT	
Sunderland	WT-12 Cumberland – Montague – Chicopee JCT	
Springfield		WT-23B Ludlow – East Springfield
Warwick	WT-13 Leverett/Shutesbury Town Line – N.H. State Line	
Wendall	WT-13 Leverett/Shutesbury Town Line – N.H. State Line	
West Springfield		WT-22B Agawam – W. Springfield – CT River
Windsor	WT-01 Berkshire – Ashfield	

Public Review

The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), in particular, seeks the verification of sensitive area locations reported in the YOP. The Department itself has a limited ability to survey the geography, land use, and the water supplies in all the communities through which the rights-of-ways are located. Municipalities, however, have most of this information readily available, and the particular knowledge with which to better certify the sensitive areas in their communities. Therefore, the Department requests and urges the assistance of the "affected" municipalities in reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the maps contained in the submitted document. The DAR has established the following procedures for this review.

Yearly Operational Plans (YOP's) and a copy of this notice will be sent by the applicant to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health (or designated health agent) and to the head of government (mayor, city manager, chair of the board of selectmen) of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied along the rights-of-ways during the calendar year 2013. Municipal agencies and officials will have forty-five (45) days following receipt of the YOP to review the maps contained in the document that indicate the location of "sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field" for inaccuracies and omissions. "Sensitive areas" will be defined as in Section 11.02, and exclude wetlands which are to be delineated "in the field" as described in the applicant's approved Vegetation Management Plan (VMP).

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in the municipality qualified to certify the accuracy of sensitive area locations as indicated on the maps. The maps should be corrected and returned to the applicant, also a copy of the maps with these corrections indicated should be sent to the DAR to the addressed listed below, within the forty-five day review period. If a city or town needs more time to carry out this review, it should send a written request for an extension to the DAR and cite why there is "good cause" for requesting additional time.

All corrections will be required to be made by the applicant, and corrected maps sent back to the city/town before the YOP can be considered "approved" by the Department for vegetation maintenance in that municipality. Any dispute on the part of the applicant regarding corrections made by municipal authorities should be indicated in writing to the Department and to the city/town which requested the disputed changes within fifteen (15) days of receipt of that request. The Department will decide whether or not the YOP should be approved without the requested changes. The DAR will consider the "final approval" of the YOP individually for each municipality.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of this YOP within the forty-five day public review period will be considered by the DAR to indicate agreement by municipal officials with the sensitive area demarcations as provided by the applicant in their YOP.

Any questions or comments on the information provided in this Notice and the procedures established for the municipal review as outlined above should be addressed to:

Rights-of-Way Program
Pesticide Bureau
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114

Any additional questions or comments on any information provided as part of the proposed YOP should be addressed in writing to:

Anthony W. Johnson, III
Manager—Transmission Vegetation Management
Northeast Utilities
P. O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

A copy should also be sent to the Rights-of-Way Program at the above address.

Comment period closes at the close of business on Wednesday, January 7, 2015